



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, Sep 2010

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 21/09/2010

CONTENTS



Welcome From the Director

Includes: Welcome from the Director of the **Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre** and highlights in this issue.



A Faster Way to Find Data for Your Local Government Area

Includes: An article showing how you can access and use the latest **National Regional Profile** for your region.



Population by Age and Sex for Regions of Australia

Includes: An article showcasing the recent release of **population estimates by age and sex** for regions of Australia.



What's Happening in Local Government Finance?

Includes: An update on the latest news and developments in **Local Government Finance**.



Understanding Data Quality

Includes: An announcement about the release of the new **Data Quality Online** tool.



Recent and Future ABS Releases

Includes: The upcoming release of **Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas** and the next **National Regional Profile**.



Other News and Contacts

Includes: Information about the **2011 Census of Population and Housing** and the **2011 Agricultural Census**.

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WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ABS

Welcome to the latest edition of the 'Local Government and ABS' newsletter.

What's in this issue?

This issue contains a feature article Population by Age and Sex for Regions of Australia highlighting a recent release containing population estimates for regions, including Local Government Areas. These data can be used to explore the age and sex distribution of the population of different areas. The article discusses the distribution of children, working age populations, people aged 65 years and over, and the sex ratio for regions including Local Government Areas and capital cities.

Another article in this issue highlights the release of a Data Quality Online tool designed to help users better manage their data and make informed decisions.

Other information in this issue includes an update on 'What's happening in Local Government Finance?', news on the 2011 Census of Population and Housing and the 2011 Agricultural Census, as well as information about a number of Recent and Future ABS releases. Future releases include Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas and the next update of the National Regional Profile.

We hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative, and we welcome your feedback and comments.

Lisa Conolly

Director

Regional Statistics Branch

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A FASTER WAY TO FIND DATA FOR YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Finding your local government area

Exploring local government areas using the NRP

New data in the latest edition of the NRP

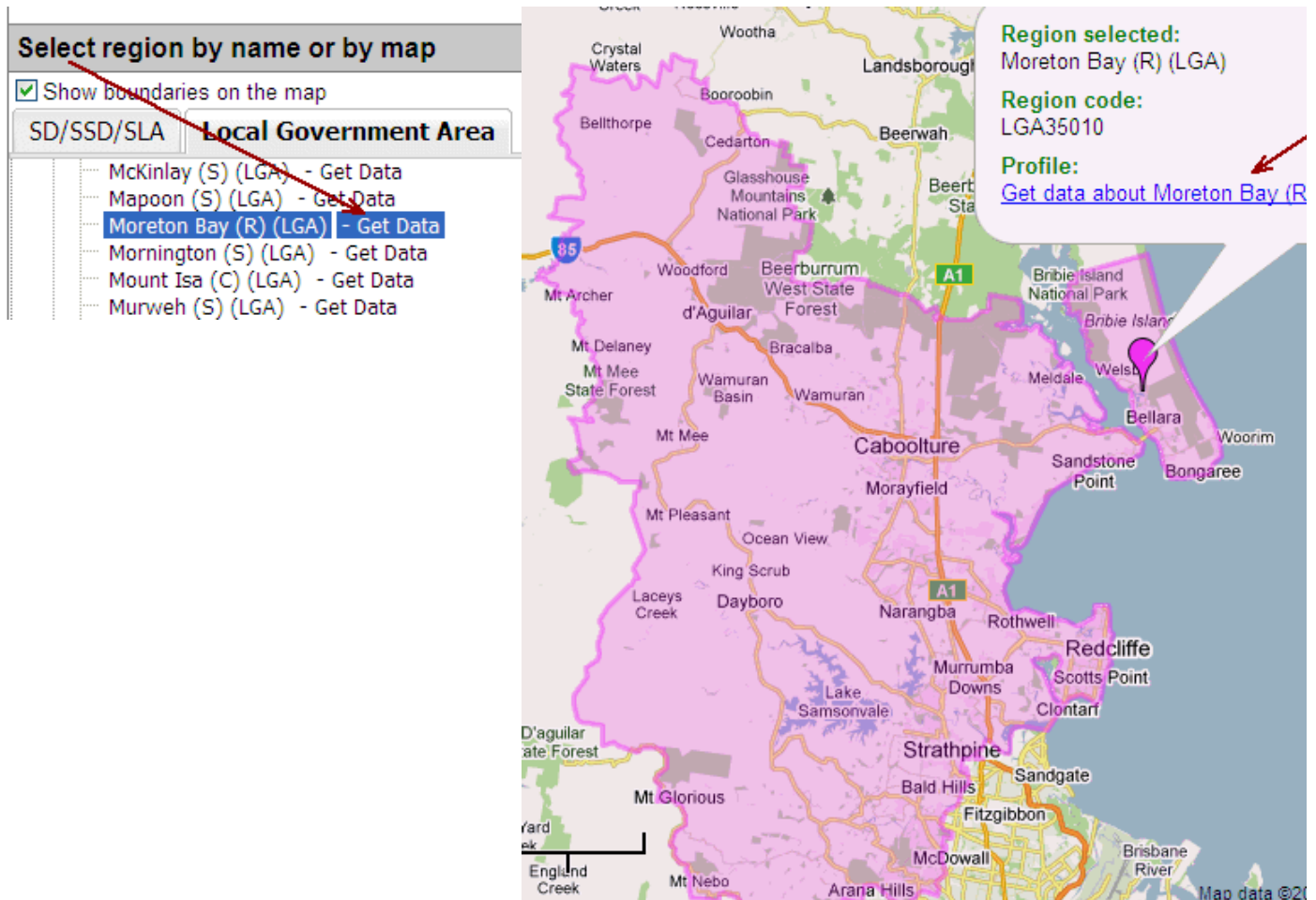
Finding the NRP on the ABS website and accessing help information

On 29 April 2010 a new and improved issue of the National Regional Profile (NRP) was released to the ABS website. This is the first time the NRP has been released using a Google map based interface, making it easier to find data for your local government area and other regions. The NRP contains a range of interesting social and economic data items from the ABS and non-ABS sources. Data is grouped into four key topics: Economy, Population/People, Industry and Environment/Energy. Data is available in a five years time series (where available) for the period from 2004 to 2008. This edition includes several new datasets that will be of interest to local government.

Finding your local government area

The new NRP entry point makes it easier to find your local government area using familiar Google features. There are several ways to find your local government area. You can use the address search box to type a specific address, a locality (suburb or town) or the name of your local government area; use the map and zoom in and out to find your region; or pick your region from the tab that lists local government areas by name.

Once you have located your local government area, a data profile can be downloaded with one click of the mouse. In the example below, the Moreton Bay (R) Local Government Area (LGA) on the south-east coast of Queensland has been selected. The shaded area shows the boundary of the region, with topographic features of the Moreton Bay area shown in the Google map underneath. Users can zoom in or zoom out to see more or less detail. A data profile for Moreton Bay (R) (LGA) can be downloaded by clicking on the 'Get data about...' link in the information window or from the pick-list on the left.



You can also download a detailed Excel spreadsheet of data for your local government area from the data profile, or compare data for regions using the SuperTABLE datacube which is accessed from the 'Compare Regions' link at the top of the NRP Welcome Page.

[Back to top](#)

Exploring regions using the NRP

Once you have accessed the data, it can be used to explore the characteristics of your local government area. In the example below we have used the LGA of Moreton Bay to show how characteristics can be analysed from a particular point in time or compared over time using the five year time series. We also show how you can compare data for a region with other regions.

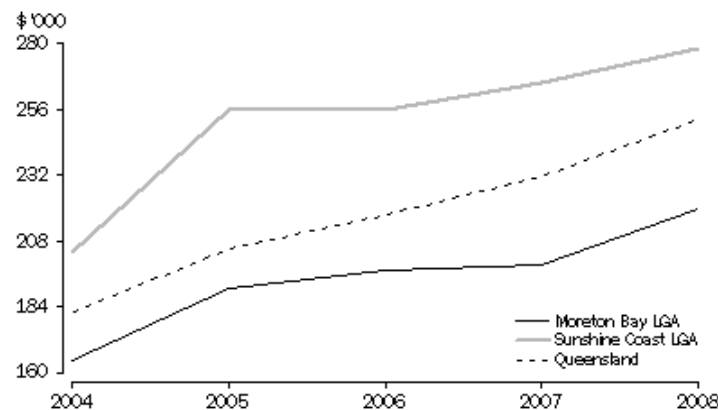
In the twelve months from 30 June 2007 to 30 June 2008, the population of Moreton Bay (R) LGA increased by 3.4% (11 831) to 356 709 persons. This was a higher growth rate than the nearby LGAs of Sunshine Coast (R) and Brisbane (C) which during the same period increased by 2.9% and 1.7% respectively. It was also higher than the population growth rate for Queensland which was 2.3%. The total number of males in Moreton Bay (R) LGA increased by 13.5% from 2004 to 2008 and the total number of females increased by 12.6% from 2004 to 2008. This amounted to a 13.5% or 41 204 person increase in the total population over the five years. In 2008, there were slightly more persons aged 30-34 years when compared to 2004 and 5441 more persons aged 60-64 years in 2008 when compared to 2004.

In 2008, there were 150 more births compared to 2007 or 1 146 when compared to 2004. This is reflected by the higher fertility rate in 2008 (2.3 babies per woman) compared with 2004 (2.0 babies per woman). The 2008 fertility rate for Moreton Bay (R) LGA was higher than the fertility rates for the nearby LGAs of Brisbane (C) (1.7) and Sunshine Coast (R) (2.0) as well as the Queensland rate of 2.0 babies per female.

From 2007 to 2008, there were increases in the number of persons receiving a Carers Payment (6.1% or 119 persons), Age Pension (Centrelink) (5.4% or 1 654 persons), and Disability Support Pension (2.7% or 317 persons) in the Moreton Bay (R) LGA. At the same time, there were decreases in the number of persons receiving Youth Allowance (-12.2% or 510 persons), Newstart Allowance (-8.7% or 469 persons), and Parenting Payment (Single) (-9.1% or 709 persons). The rate of persons receiving Newstart Allowance for more than a year was relatively stable at 55.8%.

The total dwelling units approved in Moreton Bay (R) LGA in 2008 was 4 501 compared with 4 881 in 2004. Over the five years from 2004 to 2008, the average value of private sector houses in Moreton Bay (R) LGA increased \$55, 100 to \$219, 800. The average value of private sector houses in the nearby Sunshine Coast (R) LGA increased \$74 400 to \$278 100 and \$ 70 500 to \$252 400 for Queensland.

Average value of private sector houses



Other interesting data about Moreton Bay (R) LGA includes:

- In 2007, the highest proportion of wage and salary earners were aged 35-44 years. Of the total wage and salary earners, the largest proportion (19.9%) were classified as 'Intermediate, Clerical, Sales and Service Workers', followed by 'Professionals' (13.4%), and 'Tradespersons and Related Workers' (11.4%).
- Of the 24 669 businesses at 30 June 2007, more than a quarter (or 6 300) were in the 'Construction' industry, 21.5% (or 5 316) were in the 'Property and business services' industry, followed by 11.2% (or 2 754) in the 'Retail trade' industry.
- In 2008, there were 697 registered motor vehicles per 1 000 population in Moreton Bay (R) LGA compared with 737 per 1000 population in the Sunshine Coast (R) LGA.
- In 2008, 45.7% of the total registered motor vehicles in Moreton Bay (R) LGA were 10 years or older, and 27.2% were less than 5 years old.
- In 2006, there were 55 000 hectares of agricultural land and the total gross value of agricultural production was \$167.7 million in the Moreton Bay (R) LGA.
- In 2008, there were 175.1 persons/km² in Moreton Bay (R) LGA compared with 100.1 persons/km² in Sunshine Coast (R) LGA.

[Back to top](#)

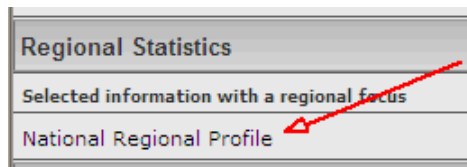
New data in the latest edition of the NRP

Some of the examples given for the Moreton Bay LGA are data items that are new to this issue of the NRP. New data to this issue of the NRP includes:

- Estimates of household wealth
- Age of motor vehicles
- Value of agricultural production
- Water Use on Australian farms
- Selected Government pensions and allowances

Finding the NRP on the ABS website and accessing help information

The NRP can be accessed directly from the links on the left of the ABS Home page.



A range of updated 'help' material is available from the NRP welcome page in clearly marked in the coloured tabs above the map.



The first three tabs detail how to find a region, compare regions, and information about the data available in the release. The last tab, 'Videos and other Help' contains video demonstrations on how to use the NRP, information about the regions, and frequently asked questions.

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Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 21/09/2010



POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX FOR REGIONS OF AUSTRALIA

What data is available?

Age and sex distribution

At the Regional Level

Did you know?

How can I find out more?

The 2009 issue of Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia (cat. no. 3235.0) was published on 5 August 2010.

What data is available?

This release contains the latest available estimates of Australia's resident population by age (in five-year age groups up to 85 and over) and sex as at 30 June 2004 and 30 June 2009. Estimates are provided for Local Government Areas (LGAs), Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), Statistical Divisions (SDs), Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) and states and territories of Australia. Data can be downloaded from the ABS website in an Excel spreadsheet or SuperTABLE, allowing users to conduct analysis at the geographic level of their interest.

The Main Features provides an overview of the key findings of the product including age and sex distribution, sex ratio, median age and significant age brackets (children, working age, 65 and above). More detailed regional coverage is available in state/territory specific commentaries. Data interpretation is aided through the use of population pyramids, graphs and maps.

[Back to top](#)

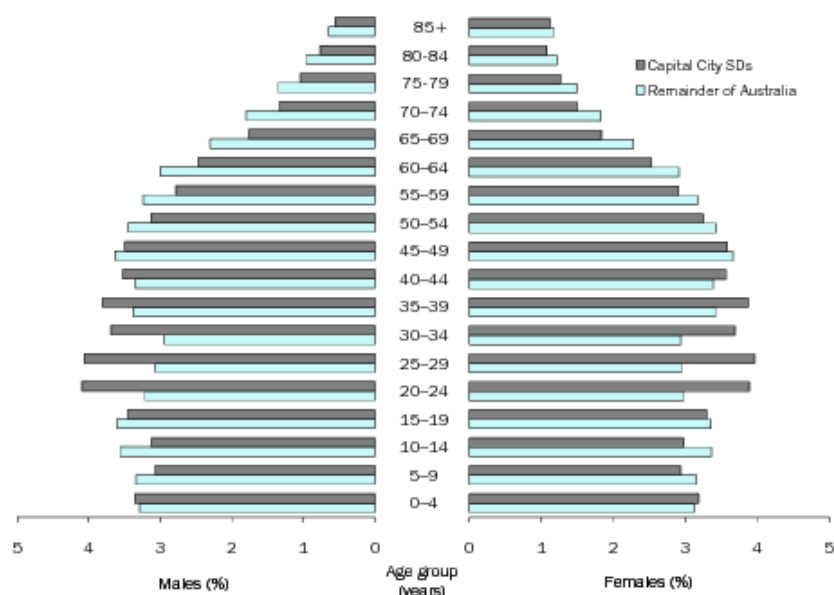
What does the data show?

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION

Australia's population at 30 June 2009 was characterised by a larger proportion of both males and females aged 20-44 years living in capital cities compared to the rest of the country. This reflects a pattern of people in these age groups moving to capital cities to pursue education, work and other opportunities. This trend was reversed in the remaining age brackets with higher proportions of people aged below 20 and above 44 years in regional areas.

The sex ratio (number of males per 100 females) was 99.2 at June 2009, which equated to 91,900 more females than males. The longer life expectancy of females was evident in the lower sex ratio of older age groups; for people aged 80-84 the sex ratio was 74.1 and for people aged 85 and older it was 51.9.

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION (%), Capital City SDs and remainder of Australia - 30 June 2009



The median age of Australians (the age at which half the population is older and half is younger) increased from 36.3 years in 2004 to 36.8 years in 2009, indicative of an ageing population. This trend was also identifiable in specific age brackets; the proportion of children (under 15 years of age) in the total population declined between 2004 and 2009, while the proportion of people aged 65 years and over increased. These changes were consistent across all states and territories. The proportion of the working age population (15-64 years) increased marginally over the five-year period.

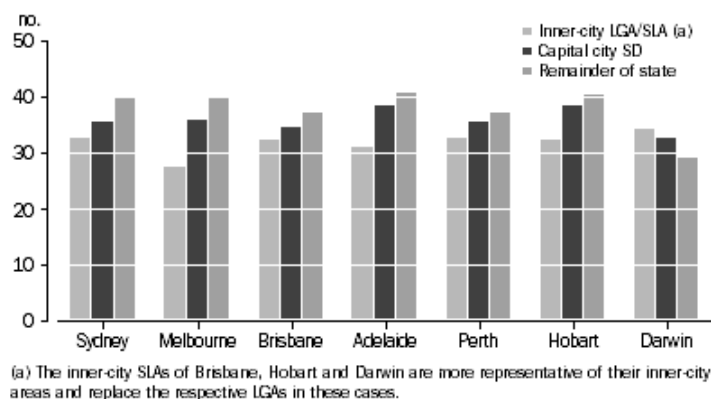
[Back to top](#)

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

Median age

In all states of Australia the inner-city LGA (or inner-city SLA in the case of Brisbane, Hobart and Darwin) of the capital city had a lower median age than the total capital city SD, which also had a lower median age than the remainder of the state. Only in the Northern Territory was this pattern reversed.

MEDIAN AGE (YEARS), Capital City inner-city LGA/SLAs, SDs and remainders of state - 30 June 2009



Higher median ages were associated with popular coastal retirement LGAs such as Victor Harbor (C) and Yorke Peninsula (DC) in South Australia, Queenscliffe (B) in Victoria, Glamorgan/Spring Bay (M) in Tasmania and Great Lakes (A) in New South Wales, which all had median ages of 50 years or older.

Some inland regional areas with high median ages were Strathbogie (S) and Yarriambiack (S) in Victoria,

Mid Murray (DC) in South Australia and Gloucester (A) in New South Wales.

Distribution of children (under 15 years of age)

The LGAs with the highest proportions of children were located in regional northern Australia and all contained significant Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander populations. Yarrabah (S), Northern Peninsula Area (R), Torres Strait Island (R), Torres (S) and Palm Island (S) in Queensland and Victoria-Daly (S), Roper Gulf (S) and East Arnhem (S) in the Northern Territory contained proportions of children above 30%.

The lowest proportions of children were all within inner-city LGAs; Adelaide (C), Perth (C), Melbourne (C) and Sydney (C) were all below 8%. Within capital city SDs the highest proportions of children were found in outer suburban growth areas such as Camden (A) and Blacktown (C) in New South Wales, Melton (S) and Wyndham (C) in Victoria and Playford (C) and Salisbury (C) in South Australia.

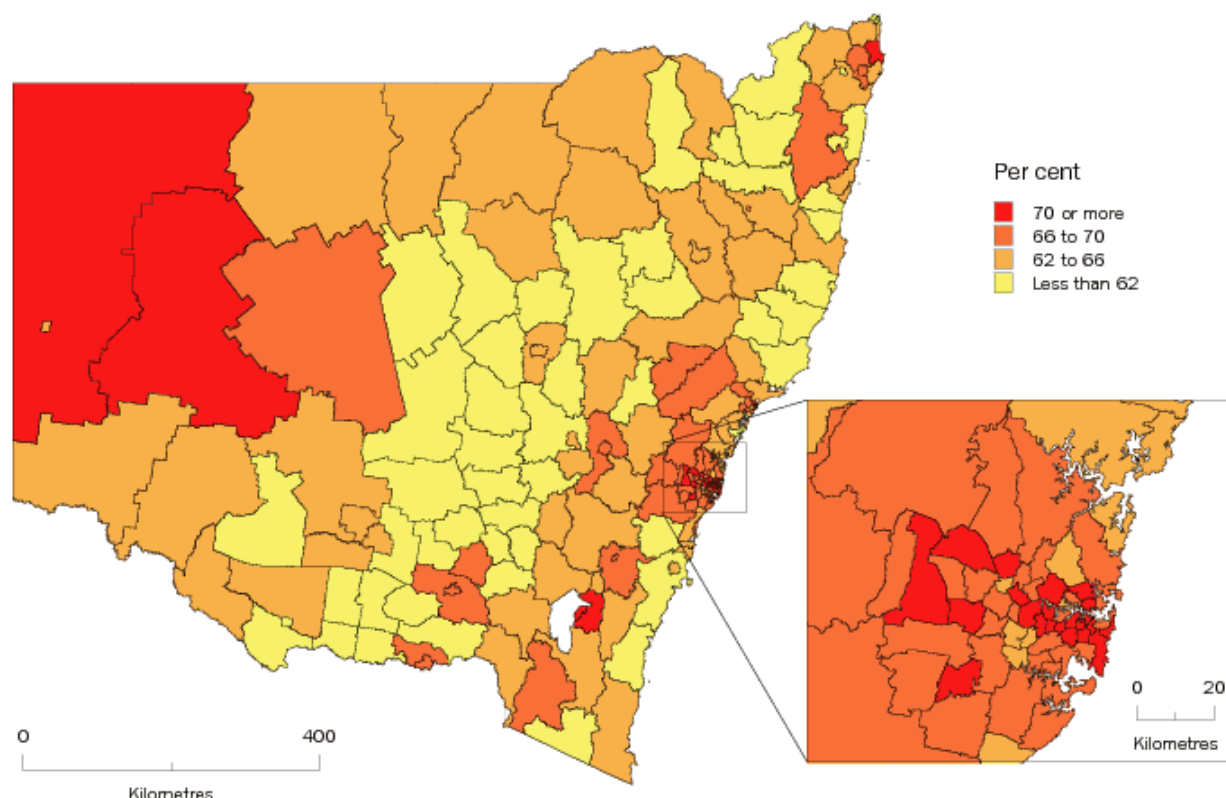
Distribution of working age population (aged 15-64 years)

The four LGAs with the lowest proportions of children (Melbourne (C), Perth (C), Sydney (C) and Adelaide (C)) also had the highest proportions of working aged population, all over 84%, reflecting the high incidence of tertiary students and working professionals residing in inner-city areas.

All of the remaining LGAs with proportions of working age population over 75% were located in capital city SDs. These were North Sydney (A), Leichhardt (A) and Marrickville (A) in Sydney, Port Phillip (C) and Yarra (C) in Melbourne and Vincent (T) and Subiaco (C) in Perth.

Many LGAs heavily associated with resource sector activities such as Roxby Downs (M) in South Australia and East Pilbara (S) in Western Australia also contained a high proportion of working age population.

WORKING AGE POPULATION (AGED 15-64 YEARS), Statistical Local Areas, New South Wales - 30 June 2009



Distribution of people aged 65 years and over

The four LGAs with the highest proportion (over 25%) of people aged 65 years and over were Queenscliffe (B) in Victoria, Victor Harbor (C) and Yorke Peninsula (DC) in South Australia and Great Lakes (A) in New

South Wales. These are all coastal regions and popular retirement destinations.

The inland regional LGAs of Hindmarsh (S), Yarriambiack (S) and Central Goldfields (S) in Victoria and Peterborough (DC) in South Australia also contained high proportions of people aged 65 years and over.

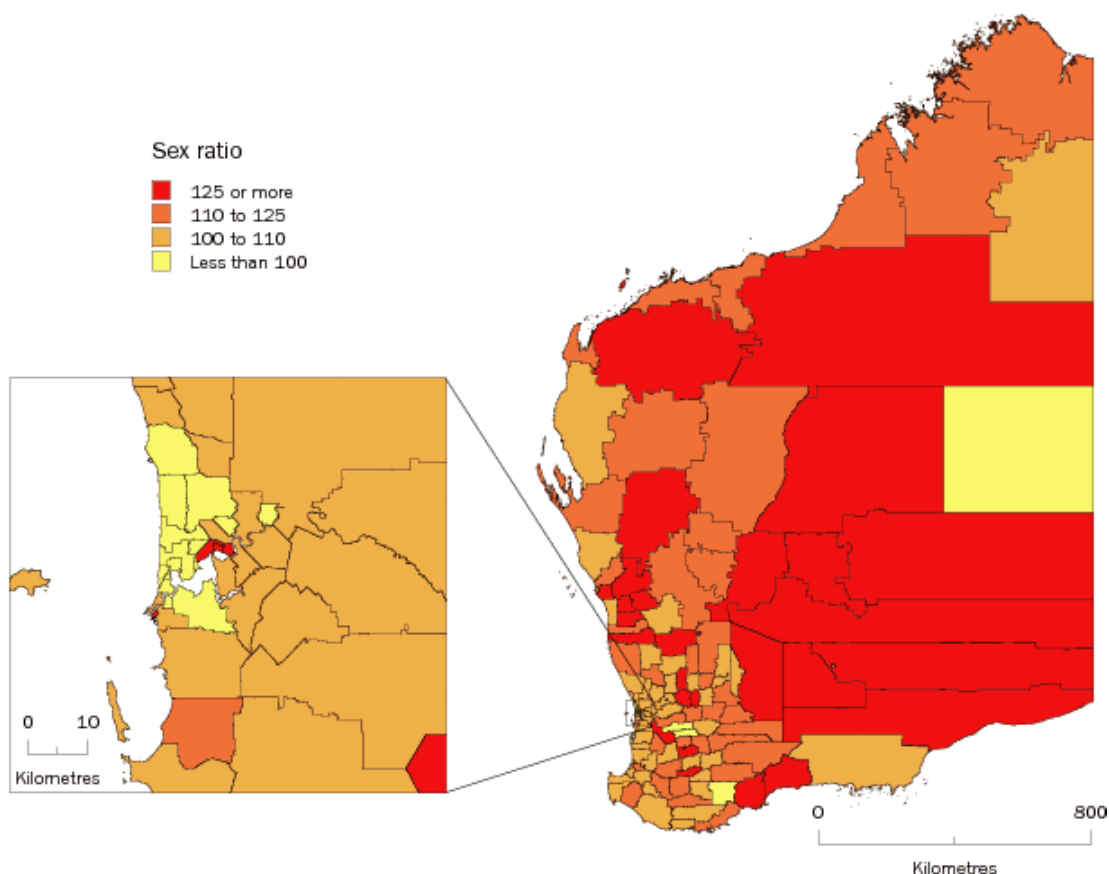
Sex Ratio

In every state and territory (except the Northern Territory) the sex ratio was lower in the capital city SD than in the remainder of the state. Perth and Darwin were the only capital cities with more males than females.

In all capital city SDs the sex ratio was lower than in the respective inner-city LGA (or inner-city SLA in the case of Brisbane, Hobart and Darwin) reflecting a higher incidence of males residing in inner-city areas.

The LGAs with the highest sex ratios were associated with resource, agriculture, manufacturing and defence industries. Ravensthorpe (S), East Pilbara (S) and Ashburton (S) in Western Australia, Roxby Downs (M) in South Australia and Walgett (A) in New South Wales all had sex ratios above 130.0. The only capital city LGA with a sex ratio above 130 was Perth (C), which had a sizeable male population employed in the resource sector.

MALES PER 100 FEMALES, Statistical Local Areas, Western Australia - 30 June 2009



[Back to top](#)

Did you know?

The publication Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat no. 3105.0.65.001) contains historical demographic data on a variety of topics including major population centres (available from 1911) and age-sex structure (five-year age and sex estimates are available from 1861 at state level) .

[Back to top](#)

How can I find out more?

Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 3235.0) can be accessed free of charge on the ABS website: www.abs.gov.au

For further information about the statistics in the product, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Tricia Dyson from the Regional Population Unit on (08) 8237 7662.

[Back to top](#)

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE?

Collections

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) collects and publishes annual Local Government Finance data, including the amount and purpose of local government expenditure. These annual financial data are collected from the Department of Local Government or Grants Commission in each state or territory. The ABS also undertakes a quarterly sample survey of councils.

Annual

The Local Government Statistical Unit (LGSU) of the ABS is currently preparing to receive and process the Annual Data returns supplied by the Department of Local Government/Grants Commission of each state or territory. The financial and function data on these forms are edited and the output used by the ABS to compile Government Finance Statistics. Data are published in Government Finance Statistics, Australia (cat. no. 5512.0) in early April.

Quarterly

The ABS conducts a quarterly survey of financial information, which will be despatched to a selected sample of councils each quarter. The next round of quarterly survey forms will be despatched in the third week of September. Responses are required by **8 October 2010**. Early attention to the survey forms enabling a timely return to the ABS will ensure that the financial activity of local government is accurately represented in Australia's National Accounts.

The ABS thanks councils for their cooperation in providing timely and high quality data for these collections. The information provided is used in making important policy decisions concerning the sector and it is important that accurate and timely information is returned by councils to build this data set.

Visits to Departments of Local Government and Grants Commissions

Each year, the LGSU endeavours to meet with state/territory Grants Commissions or Departments of Local Government to review the recently completed annual collection and to commence preparations for the next cycle. These meetings are to be scheduled in accordance with the forward work program of LGSU and are in the process of being finalised.

Contact

For further information or inquiries about Local Government Statistics, contact the Local Government Statistical Unit on (07) 3222 6404.

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UNDERSTANDING DATA QUALITY

A NEW ONLINE TOOL

The National Statistical Service (NSS), a community of government agencies led by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), encourages the use of statistical frameworks, principles and resources, which can help data providers and users to realise the benefits of good data management through its DATAfitness program. DATAfitness encourages the use of statistical frameworks, principles and resources which can help data providers and users to realise the benefits of good data management.

Over the past few years, the call has been put out for public policies to be informed by good evidence. Statistical information is now answering that call. Statistical information has long been recognised as being good evidence, which places it at the heart of evidence-based policy.

As part of its DATAfitness program, the NSS has developed Data Quality Online (DQO), an easy-to-use online support system for data collectors, providers and users.

DQO is the first assistant of its kind in the world and provides clear and simple support to those involved in understanding data, and using it to make decisions. DQO helps users to draft data quality statements, and can now be used to compile general purpose quality statements for a variety of data sets (e.g. Administrative data, Survey data) whilst continuing to support users to draft tailored, indicator-driven quality statements for Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Performance reporting.

The NSS officially launched the DQO in August 2010, in conjunction with the ABS. DQO is based on the nationally recognised ABS Data Quality Framework, which provides a consistent standard for describing the quality of data.

For further information on DQO or DATAfitness take a look at the NSS website. You can also email inquiries@nss.gov.au.

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1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, Sep 2010

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 21/09/2010



RECENT AND FUTURE ABS RELEASES

Recent Releases

Future Releases

RECENT RELEASES

CENSUS 2011 PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing - Proposed Products and Services, 2011 (cat. no. 2011.0) was released on 29 July. This outlines the proposals, and explains how you can view what they may look like and how you can provide feedback.

BUILDING APPROVALS

Building Approvals, July 2010 (cat. no. 8731.0) was released on 31 August 2010. Released on a monthly basis, this publication provides data by Statistical Local Area (and Local Government Area upon request), including:

- the number and value of dwelling units approved by sector (public/private);
- the number and value of new other residential dwelling units approved by type of building; and
- the number and value of non-residential building jobs approved by type of building.

Seasonally adjusted and trend estimates by state are included for the number of dwelling units and value of building approved.

ESTIMATES OF PERSONAL INCOME FOR SMALL AREAS

Released on 14 September 2010, Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, 2003-04 to 2007-08 (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002) contains estimates of the sources and amount of personal income people received for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08. Compiled using aggregated individual income tax data from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), this release contains information on income from Wages and salaries, Own unincorporated business, Investment, Superannuation and annuities, Other income (excluding Government pensions and allowances) and Total income (excluding Government pensions and allowances). Data will be available for various levels of the 2008 Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), including Local Government Areas.

AUSTRALIAN STANDARD GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION

The latest edition of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), July 2010 (cat. no. 1216.0) was released on 16 September 2010. The ASGC is a geographical classification system designed and maintained by the ABS, which divides Australia into geographical areas for the purpose of collecting and disseminating statistics. The publication provides details of the statistical geography effective at 1 July

2010 and includes maps of these areas.

[Back to top](#)

FUTURE RELEASES

WAGE AND SALARY EARNER STATISTICS FOR SMALL AREAS

Scheduled for release on 6 October 2010, 'Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, 2003-04 to 2007-08' (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003) will contain data on selected characteristics of wage and salary earners such as age, sex, occupation and wage and salary income for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08. Data will be available at a range of geographies, including Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Statistical Local Areas (SLAs).

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

To be released on 7 October 2010, 'Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Australia, June 2010' (cat. no. 8635.0.55.002) will present results from the on-going quarterly Survey of Tourist Accommodation (STA). Data includes number of establishments, capacity and employment for the quarter and occupancy and takings from accommodation for each month; by type of establishment and by star grading. Information is presented for each state/territory and Australia and by Tourism Regions as defined by the respective state/territory tourism commissions.

Small area data are available for states and territories in catalogue numbers 8635.1.55.001 through to 8635.8.55.007. Data are available for Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Tourism Regions (TRs). The publication 9503.0.55.001 contains maps defining the Tourism Regions.

BIRTHS

Births, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 3301.0) is scheduled for release on 19 October 2010. This publication will present a range of statistics on confinements and live births, including data on male and female births, births of Indigenous children, age and birthplace of parents, duration of marriage, nuptial and exnuptial births, single and multiple births and fertility rates. Number of births and fertility rates will be available for Local Government Areas, Statistical Local Areas, and Statistical Divisions.

DEATHS

Scheduled for release on 10 November 2009, Deaths, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 3302.0) will contain a range of statistics on deaths and mortality for 2009. The publication will include the number of deaths, classified by age, sex, birthplace, marital status, cause of death and usual residence by state or territory, as well as information on infant deaths, deaths of Indigenous persons, age-specific death rates, expectation of life at birth and standardised death rates. Number of deaths and standardised death rates will be available for local government areas.

NATIONAL REGIONAL PROFILE

Scheduled for release in late 2010, the latest edition of the National Regional Profile (NRP) will present, for all Australia, a range of data for various types of small regions including Local Government Areas, and Statistical Local Areas as well as other larger geographies. The NRP has the option of using a Google map to locate areas of interest.

The NRP is intended for users interested in the characteristics of regions and in comparing regions across Australia. Data is presented as a five year time series, where available. The new release of the NRP will contain data from the years 2005 to 2009.

[Back to top](#)

This page last updated 4 March 2011

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1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, Sep 2010

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 21/09/2010



OTHER NEWS AND CONTACTS

2011 Census of Population and Housing

Beyond the Count

2010-11 Agricultural Census

Regional @ a Glance page

Help for Local Government on the ABS website

Understanding Statistics

Newsletter and ABS Contact Details

How to Subscribe or Unsubscribe from this Newsletter

2011 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

What is the Census?

The Census aims to accurately measure the number of people in Australia, their key characteristics, and the dwellings in which they live. The Census provides a snapshot of Australia and helps define who we are.

Why is it important?

The Census underpins Australia's democracy and is crucial to communities, private institutions and all levels of government for planning services and facilities. The Census is used to determine community infrastructure needs, such as where schools, hospitals, and roads are required. Federal funding arrangements to the states and territories, including allocation of GST revenue, are also based on census information.

Does everyone count?

Everyone in Australia is counted on Census Night, regardless of how long they have been in the country, including international students. Only foreign diplomats and their families are not included.

When is the next Census?

The 16th Census of Population and Housing will take place on the night of 9 August 2011. 2011 also marks a significant milestone - 100 years of national Census taking in Australia.

How is the count conducted?

From 29 July 2011 Collectors will be out in the community visiting every dwelling in Australia. Forms can be completed online with the eCensus, which is a secure, quick and easy alternative to the paper form.

After Census night, Collectors will return to collect completed forms, if they have not been completed online.

Collectors will also ensure that people staying in hospitals, hotels and motels, camping or travelling through Australia on Census night are counted.

How can local government help?

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) will be on the lookout for over 30,000 community-minded people all over Australia to help us count the nation. The recruitment of good quality field staff is paramount to the success of the Census.

Recruitment of District Managers will begin in September 2010, Area Supervisors in February 2011 and

Census Collectors in April 2011. Around these times the positions will be advertised on the ABS website www.abs.gov.au and in local papers.

Local government can help the ABS with:

- increasing support for the Census at the community level;
- utilising local knowledge and intelligence;
- improvising awareness of recruitment of Census field staff; and
- raising awareness and promoting the benefits of the 2011 Census.

To discuss the 2011 Census in your community, please contact:

NSW	VIC
Paul Roper Assistant Director NSW Census Management Unit t 02 9268 4219 e paul.roper@abs.gov.au	Peter Vine Assistant Director Victorian Census Management Unit t 03 9982 6207 e peter.vine@abs.gov.au
SA	QLD
Caroline Deans Assistant Director SA Census Management Unit t 08 8237 7398 e caroline.deans@abs.gov.au	Geri Eynstone-Hinkins Assistant Director Census Engagement and Special Strategies Queensland Census Management Unit t 07 3222 6112 e geri.eynstone-hinkins@abs.gov.au
WA	NT
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TAS	ACT
Ruth McArdle Assistant Director Tasmanian Census Management Unit t 03 6222 5767 e ruth.mcardle@abs.gov.au	Tim Power Census Engagement Officer ACT Census Management Unit t 02 6252 8922 e tim.power@abs.gov.au

[Back to top](#)

BEYOND THE COUNT

Arriving in Melbourne soon...

A showcase event that explores the issues that matter to all Australians. We will look beyond the count and reveal what a difference the Census makes.

Date Wednesday 2 to Friday 4 March 2011

Venue Hilton on Park Melbourne

Share your Census story!

We're now seeking potential speakers and exhibitors for this exciting event. If you, or your organisation, take Census data beyond the count we would love to hear from you.

Visit www.abs.gov.au/beyondthecount or follow [@beyondthecount](https://twitter.com/beyondthecount) for more information.

2010-11 AGRICULTURAL CENSUS - ABS GEAR UP FOR 5 YEARLY DATA HARVEST

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is getting ready for the 2010-11 Agricultural Census. The Agricultural Census involves collecting data from around 170,000 farm businesses in approximately 700 Local Government Areas across Australia. This collection is the second largest collection undertaken by the ABS; topped only in size by the Census of Population and Housing.

Results from the Agricultural Census will provide vital information on agricultural commodity production throughout Australia, the value of agricultural commodities produced and their contribution to the national economy.

Other information to be collected will include data on stock numbers and land use, as well as the management practices being adopted by Australian agricultural businesses. This information will be used by Commonwealth and state government departments, industry bodies and agricultural businesses to assist in decision making, policy formation and planning.

The Agricultural Census is conducted once every five years, and provides Australia's most detailed picture of what is happening in the agricultural sector at the regional level.

If you are interested in further, specific information about the Agricultural Census, visit the Agriculture @ a Glance page on the ABS website or contact Katie Hutt, Environment and Agriculture Business Statistics Centre, (03) 6222 5866 or email katie.hutt@abs.gov.au.

Regional @ a Glance PAGE

The Regional @ a Glance page is a great place to start if you are looking for data or information about regional statistics.

The Regional Releases page contains links to ABS products containing regional data, organised under the topic headings Economy, Population and People, Industry and Environment and Energy. The page also includes links to compendia products, such as the National Regional Profile and state-specific publications. The Noticeboard is updated regularly to provide users with information on the latest developments in regional statistics, while the @ a Glance page also provides links to other relevant Topics @ a Glance pages and information about using and interpreting statistics.

HELP FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON THE ABS WEBSITE

'Services to Local Government' is a series of information pages designed to help you find data for your Local Government Area and inform you how to keep up to date with the latest ABS releases and available training. It also provides information about how ABS uses local government data. The pages have recently been updated. You can find the 'Services to Local Government' pages by heading to the ABS Home Page, clicking on 'Services' along the top navigation bar and following the link to 'Local Government'.

UNDERSTANDING STATISTICS

'Understanding Statistics' is a series of help pages available from the ABS website. These pages provide an overview of statistical terms and methods used by the ABS and other statistical agencies as well as information on ABS training courses, online tutorials, presentations and resources. You can find the 'Understanding Statistics' link under the 'All Statistics' section at the top of the left navigation bar on the ABS

Home page.

Recently added to the 'Understanding Statistics' portal is 'A Guide for Using Statistics for Evidence Based Policy'. The article discusses what evidence-based decision making means and how statistics can enhance the decision-making process.

[Back to top](#)

NEWSLETTER AND ABS CONTACT DETAILS


This newsletter is designed to improve communication between the ABS and the Local Government Sector. New ABS initiatives to assist local government organisations will be announced in this newsletter as they evolve.

We appreciate receiving your views and suggestions about this newsletter so that it remains useful and assists you to understand and use ABS statistics. We also welcome suggestions for articles that you feel should be included. Please email your comments and suggestions to regional.statistics@abs.gov.au.

For other enquiries contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or e-mail: client.services@abs.gov.au.

[Back to top](#)

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE OR UNSUBSCRIBE TO THIS NEWSLETTER

To subscribe to 'Local Government and ABS' and receive email notification of its release, simply click on the email notification icon  at the top of this page on the toolbar to access the Email Notification service, and follow the steps. The catalogue number of this newsletter (1376.0) will automatically be entered into the details.

Alternatively, you can access the Email Notification Service from the link on the ABS Home Page or from the Email Notification icon on any other page of the website where it appears. Simply choose topic '1. General', subtopic '13. Year books and other multi-subject products', select 'Go' and scroll down to '1376.0 - Local Government and ABS'. The service also enables you to find out what you have subscribed to, and cancel or modify your subscription.

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[Back to top](#)

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Australian Bureau of Statistics

1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, Sep 2010

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 21/09/2010

Contains a range of information on ABS developments in rural and regional statistics, and information about recent releases at Local Government level or other regional levels.

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